

# Nation

Volume 14, No. 01 • November 24, 2006

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Zumanity**

**13th Anniversary Issue**

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# Lucky 13

by Will Nicholls

It's our 13th anniversary. Some might consider that an unlucky number, but I think it's a significant date for this Aboriginal magazine. Thirteen consecutive years in business makes this one of the longest-lived publications in the Aboriginal media world.

As I write this I am smiling with pride that *the Nation* has been a part of the Cree world for so long. I'm still waiting for the bouquet of flowers or gift baskets from our naysayers but I won't hold my breath. Thirteen years is a long time to run and manage a news magazine and must seem like an eternity to those who would have liked to see us fail.

It is true we have spent those years bringing into the open the dark, little secrets of the Cree world. We have consistently won awards for our work in bringing those issues and news items into the light. There are those who have liked to see them stay in the dark and profit from that situation. We have been glad to disappoint them.

During our tenure, in which we have practiced a democratic model of social activism, we have been more than prophets of doom, as some would have you believe.

We have promoted Aboriginal role models and local heroes in everything from sports, politics, and environmentalism to business. We have also entertained you through columnists and stories that, while they were not news, were something of value to the Cree Nation. We have suggested movies, books and cooking tips.

In short we were always more than just a news magazine. We are there to reflect Cree values and needs.

We have done our best with the limited resources we have to achieve distinctly Cree goals. A prime example of this is the Cree Legends

series. We recorded Elders and developed new Cree fonts. The results were used in Cree culture classes as the Cree syllabics went along side the English translations.

*The Nation* has seen some founders (Ernie Webb, Catherine Bainbridge and Neil Diamond) leave to pursue careers in the film and television business. They created Rezolution Pictures and have continued in the goals of promoting, preserving and enhancing Cree culture, values and way of life. At times, they return to the Nation to give back a little of what they received from it. Ernie and Neil are still an active part of the editorial board.

At *the Nation*, we take seriously the task of being involved in the community, even when that community is actually closer to a dozen and covers over 345,000 square miles.

We have been members of the boards of Native Friendship Centres, Native Women's Shelters, the James Bay Cree Communications Society, the Quebec Community Newspaper Association as well as helping out by volunteering at a variety of events.

The Cree Nation is a growing community. It does make it difficult to cover everything but there's always next year.

Thanks to our readers and advertisers today as a business, we are viable and growing.

We have gotten over the hump financially speaking and have grown in spirit as the Cree Nation has grown.

I feel if we continue to do what we've been doing for the past 13 years we will continue to have your support. We know our future is dependent on our commitment to the highest level of professionalism we can provide to all *Nation* readers, and if we deserve it, your support will be returned. I look forward to the next 13 years.

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## on the cover

Photo: Phillip Dixon

Design: Alexandre Costa



# Forgotten heroes



War is something we all wish would not happen, but sadly, war is part of life. Today, literally hundreds of conflicts around the world are eclipsed by the big war against terrorism, in which a constant media barrage downplays the fallen soldiers who return home in caskets. This hasn't really affected us personally, but soon, our young may one day have to go.

Many years ago, before television existed in our culture, a young Inuk from James Bay aspired to see the world and one war in Korea took him to another world far across the other side of the globe.

Eddy Weetaltuk, a fine student of the Roman Catholic Mission in Fort George, mastered the French language and ventured out to the south. After changing his name to suit his new world and enable him to travel without the stigmatism that surrounded the general public's outlook of "Eskimos". It turned out that the Eskimos served a purpose to the government in those years, the late 1950s Cold War era left a paranoid government fearing that if the void and vast Arctic looked uninhabited, the Americans would claim the North for themselves as self-defense for the inevitable war against the communist countries of China and the former Soviet Union just on the other side of the North Pole.

Eddie made it his personal mission to come back and describe the world to those Inuit and people of the north in memoirs and in his artwork. Upon joining in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, he left the country he knew as his homeland for a foreign land. His unit was assigned to take over a strategic hill so that a supply route

could be opened. When asked what had happened during his fight for the hill, he would merely tell the questioner to read his book, soon to be published. After much work and writing he looked for someone to publish it. Somehow, his art and his handwritten words were retained at the Museum of War in Ottawa for display to the world. Then when the new museums opened in the Ottawa area, showcasing Aboriginal artifacts and other wonders from our lands and lives, Eddie's material was sadly misplaced for a number of years.

Years of asking for help to find his beloved works followed. Finally, with the help of McGill University, Eddie got his treasured memoirs back and published his book, *Born on the Snow*.

I met Eddie in the 1980s at the fabled Blue Angel bar in downtown Montreal. He certainly got my attention with his ability to fluidly ask for another round in Cree, English, Inuktitut, French, Korean and Japanese, which I gladly paid for. But he still did not speak of his war time in detail. He would only say that his still unfinished book would say more than he could to me that night. I guess that at that time, barely 30 years after the fact, the effects of war were still with him.

To me, Eddie represents the person who managed to go and see the world not only as a soldier to battle a real enemy in a bloody war far away to be remembered on Remembrance Day, but as someone who came back to James Bay to tell us of other worlds that was kept from us by our own foreign policies. Eddie passed away after his book was published.

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Canada

# Sleight of hand

by Steve Bonspiel

## Has James Bay Municipality usurped control over Cree category 2 and 3 lands?

The Municipalité de la Baie James has many powers over category 2 and 3 lands thanks to a law passed in the Quebec National Assembly in 2001, the Grand Council has recently learned. The legislation effectively handed over control to the MBJ from the Société de Développement de la Baie James, or SDBJ.

"We didn't know about it until the MBJ posted the notice in newspapers like the *Sentinel*, that they intended to invoke some by-laws on category 2 lands," said Bill Namagoose, Executive Director of the Grand Council of the Crees.

The notice informed residents of the MBJ's powers and asserted their right to govern the territory and make unilateral decisions. Despite the fact that they no longer need to answer to Quebec as the SDBJ did when they were overseeing the territory, they still would not go ahead with major plans unless they consulted with the Grand Council.

"We don't want to make war with the Cree for sure, we just want to manage the land," said Gerald Lemoyne, Chairman of the Regional Conference of Elected Officials and Mayor of Lebel-sur-Quévillon and of the MBJ.

Namagoose added that the GCC has requested a meeting with Quebec Premier Jean Charest. If the outcome is not to the Crees liking, the possibility of court action is something Grand Council lawyers are currently looking at. The council board authorized the proceeding of action in a meeting on October 17 in Whapmagoostui.

The situation relates back to the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement when the SDBJ was given control of the James Bay region, from the 49th to the 55th parallel. A provision stated that they must consult the Crees on anything they decided to do within the territory.

The problem with Bill 40 is that the MBJ, which is made up of a committee of regional mayors, no longer has to get Cree consent if they want to build a police station or to create a locality, for example.

When asked if the GCC had contacted any of the mayors, Namagoose downplayed the idea. "The mayors are not the ones that passed the law, it's the Quebec government that did. The mayors are merely the recipients of these new powers and they're exercising them," he said.

"Quebec passing the law and giving the mayors by-law authority is an affront to the Crees. There was no consultation and now these mayors are asserting their control over the territory," said Namagoose.

Grand Chief Mathew Mukash sent a letter to Charest citing the Crees position and how they were "left with an MBJ set up as a colonial political instrument in the hands of southern non-native communities."

Documents obtained by the Nation from the Grand Council suggested a few scenarios that the GCC would look at as an alternative to the current situation. They include amending legislation so the MBJ would fall back

under SDBJ, thus ensuring Cree rights and entitlement to the lands.

A second suggestion called for dividing the MBJ territory between "Jamesian" communities and Cree communities.

Lastly, the Grand Council suggested expanding the existing MBJ to include Cree representation in direct relation to their population.

"They have municipal powers," Namagoose fumed. "They can run a police force, they can issue building codes, they can issue or deny building permits. Anything a municipality can do, they can do."

Lemoyne reiterated that nothing would be done until the Regional Zone Council, created during the JBNQA signing, met with the Crees. "We received a letter from the Grand Council a few weeks ago and they asked to have a meeting on that," said Lemoyne.

"I think there are misunderstandings somewhere because I don't think we ever asked for building permits for people to build camps on their traplines," said Lemoyne, who admitted he does not sit on the RZC board and would have to double check, but he was confident that was the case.

Two mayors and an MBJ council board member currently sit on the RZC board. They would like to add three Cree representatives, according to Lemoyne.

"We were apprised of it when Premier Charest met with Chief Mukash in August in Whapmagoostui," said Quebec Indian Affairs Minister Geoff Kelley. "We have been asked to look into clarifying the roles that the many bodies in that part of the territory have."

Kelley says that there are discrepancies on both sides of the story and Quebec is hoping to fix it.

"We seem to be getting from both sides that the other side has the entire jurisdiction and the other party has nothing to say," said Kelley, who told the Nation that the MBJ mayors are crying foul that the Crees call all the shots.

"The truth lies somewhere in between the two and we have every interest to try to find a way to sit down so we can work together," said Kelley.

He also said that a meeting with Premier Charest should be sooner rather than later and that they are working towards a date before Christmas.

Namagoose added that there have been problems with the MBJ before, such as in Chisasibi where the Cox family is having trouble setting up tourism lodges because of pressure from the MBJ.

He was angry that the bill was passed on December 20, 2001, a few months before the February 2002 signing of the historic Paix des Braves Agreement.

"This is not mindful of the new relationship we're trying to establish, setting up a legal structure that will confront the Cree traditional use of the territory. We'll try to find a solution."

Namagoose claims he only found out about the bill during the environmental review on the Em-I A Rupert River Diversion. He admitted that the Grand Council should have known about the bill before finding out in a newspaper and he couldn't explain why it wasn't brought to the public's attention until now.

"The problem is not with the mayors or the MBJ, it is that the Quebec government unilaterally amended the JBNQA without Cree consent and they gave tremendous legislative powers to the mayors. In the process, they left out the Cree Chiefs."





# Grand Council distances itself from Fiery Speech

by Steve Bonspiel

Romeo Saganash is in hot water after delivering an anti-hydro rant in Burlington, Vermont, without the consent of his employer, the Grand Council of the Crees.

Grand Council Executive Director Bill Namagoose sent Saganash a letter November 1 requesting a meeting to clarify his Vermont speech. The letter also informed Saganash, who is the head of Quebec Relations for the Council, that any travel benefits or per diems would not be paid unless cleared by Namagoose directly.

"I can't talk about that, it's an internal matter and it will be dealt with internally," Namagoose told the Nation. When asked about the repercussions of Romeo's actions, Namagoose said it was a personnel matter. "We're talking about a man's livelihood, his job," he said. "I won't comment on that."

It is unclear at this time what will happen to Saganash's job at the Grand Council. The GCC learned of the speech in the U.S. after it was covered by Montreal newspaper *Le Devoir*.

The speech, delivered October 28, was filled with Saganash's opinions on the EMI A Rupert River Diversion. Although Saganash could not be reached for comment, Namagoose confirmed that Saganash said he was acting on his own personal time and was not representing the Grand Council.

In a press release, the GCC distances itself from Saganash. "The Grand Council of the Crees wishes to clarify that Mr. Romeo Saganash does not work for the Grand Council as legal counsel, and secondly, he has not been mandated by the Council as a spokesperson on the Eastmain 1A-Rupert Diversion Project or for the review process, but has spoken out in his personal capacity."

It went on to say that the Grand Council recognizes Saganash's right to speak as an individual, but emphasizes that the GCC fully supports the Paix des Braves Agreement with Quebec, signed in 2002.

Saganash's speech was hard hitting from the start, beginning with the devastating effects the Rupert River diversion will have on trappers.

"In James Bay, more and more large hydro reservoirs in the context of climate changes, have contributed to unpredictable ice conditions which have resulted in trappers being unable to foresee weather patterns as they did before," said Saganash. "I mention this one example of the impacts to be very clear from the start: huge hydro-electric development, damming major rivers such as the La Grande or the Rupert, do have impacts and the Crees have been living with these impacts for the past 30

years. We therefore have intimate knowledge that clean hydro is a myth; simply not true!"

Saganash added that, for the Cree, the environmental impacts of hydro mega projects are of the same magnitude of nuclear, coal and gas projects. "More still, with mega hydro developments, we have to add yet another impact of intense magnitude: the distress of the people that are being impacted and displaced and witnessing the alteration, sometimes the major flooding of their land and of the corresponding impacts on their traditional way of life. Let us never forget this when we consider hydro development."

This comes as a surprise to most people as Saganash was seen as a supporter of the Paix des Braves and of the EMI A project when the New Relationship Agreement was signed.

He also questioned why Quebec government promises from the signing of the JBNQA in 1975 were only being fulfilled today, 30 years too late.

"According to Hydro-Quebec, almost half of all Quebec's electricity comes from James Bay. Of our major rivers, 16 of them have been diverted, dried-up, flooded or affected in some way or another (and that's not counting numerous small and medium-sized rivers). In all, 12,600 square kilometres of our territory has been flooded. Now our land is totally fragmented, due to the roads that were necessary to build all those dams. On top of that, two of our communities have been relocated to allow or because of these developments."

Saganash ended his speech by encouraging alternatives to "dirty" hydroelectric power and the dams that come with it.

"Speaking just for the Cree part, I can tell you that we now have better, greener projects ready to go, alternatives including wind power. About wind power, and despite its problems, just remind yourself that a wind tower can be taken off the surface of the earth, dismantled, with little trace or damage. But totally destroying a living river can never be undone and repaired.

"These Cree alternatives projects are not only environmentally greener, but for us they also mean involving our young people from the start, giving them the education, the training but also the pride of being part of a new contract with the rest of North America: to produce and distribute our green, Cree energy to Quebec, Ontario and the northern US states. In partnership with all of you, Quebec, and the US. And to us, that is a much better option for our collective future."



■ "HIV/AIDS has many faces" ■

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Artwork from the Circle of Hope, modified for Eeyou Iitchee  
by the Public Health Department of CBHSSJB



## A Native GST?

In a move towards self-government and away from reliance on the federal government, the Tsawout First Nation in British Columbia has brought in a new First Nations goods and services tax (FNGST).

The tax, implemented October 1, will effectively replace the GST.

The FNGST is a six per cent tax on taxable supplies of goods and services on some First Nations lands. The tax applies when a band council of a First Nation passes its own law imposing FNGST. The Canada Revenue Agency then administers the tax on behalf of the First Nation community.

And it doesn't only apply to Native people as anyone who buys goods or services on the reserve will be subject to the tax.

"Tsawout First Nation is the first band south of 60 to assert tax jurisdiction over all goods and services sold on its lands," said Tsawout First Nation Chief Allan Claxton, in a press release. "I'm proud of our efforts to develop a new fiscal relationship with Canada that will help us support a strong community. Revenues from the Tsawout FNGST will benefit our community and the local economy."

It is estimated that the tax would bring in about \$1.3 million to the community. Members of the 500-strong band would receive a \$100 rebate on the tax.

Revenues will bolster the economy and help the band build a new health centre for the region.

## Kashechewan urged to relocate

The troubled northern Ontario First Nations community of Kashechewan is being urged to relocate to Timmins after continued problems with tainted drinking water and mold in the community.

"The benefits of such a relocation are clear," said the author of a study examining options for the town, Alan Pope. "This will offer the greatest advantage of improved economic and individual opportunities to the members of the Kashechewan First Nation."

Pope, a former Ontario provincial politician, presented 51 recommendations to Indian Affairs Minister Jim

Prentice and the chief of Kashechewan on November 9.

"I recommended the relocation of Kashechewan First Nation to the outskirts of the city of Timmins because of the benefits it gives to the community of Kashechewan," said Pope.

Pope was appointed in the summer as a special federal representative to make proposals for the benefit of the community. He stressed that it's not a government plan but his individual report.

Kashechewan Chief Jonathan Solomon is currently looking at the recommendations and will be presenting them to his community of 1,600 people.

In the report, it is recommended that the community retain the rights to their old community for traditional pursuits like hunting and fishing. They could also return for ceremonies and community events.

## Inuit circus tours Arctic

The Cirque du Soleil is being given a run for its money by a new initiative created to help Northern youth find their creative spark.

Artcirq, a troupe from Igloolik, Nunavut, worked with Montreal's Cirque Eloise to create opportunities for troubled youth to learn more about drumming, throat singing and many aspects of life as circus performers.

Led by co-directors Lucy Tulugarjuk and Guillaume Saladin, Artcirq's recent visit to Montreal from October 30 to November 14 was the introduction to the big city for most of the performers.

Artcirq was born out of tragedy in 1998 when two Igloolik teens committed suicide.

Saladin was training with the National Circus School in Montreal, but was up north at the time. He, along with six circus buddies, created Artcirq.

The troupe is looking forward to the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards in Edmonton, where they hope to be one of the performers.

For now, however, they are concentrating on touring the Arctic and lifting the spirits of Inuit youth. For more information, go to [www.artcirq.org](http://www.artcirq.org).

## NHL Aboriginal alumni skating for a cause

A group of Native former NHLers has been formed and they are lacing up the skates for worthy causes. Hall-of-famer Bryan Trottier, will be the General Manager of Team Aboriginal NHL.

Players will be visiting classrooms to talk about the importance of staying in school and staying away from drugs and alcohol. The goal is to instill pride and help young people set high goals as the Aboriginal leaders of tomorrow.

Team Aboriginal was created with the assistance and encouragement of NHL Alumni Association members Ron Ellis, Rene Robert, John Chabot, Kent Douglas and Dan Frawley. The Bank of Montreal has signed on as major sponsor for the team's first year.

Trottier, who won six Stanley Cups in his career with the New York Islanders and Pittsburgh Penguins, said that the format would include setting up hockey camps for youth during the day to hone the tremendous athletic skills Aboriginal youth across Canada possess. Players would then talk to community elders and at the same time learn more about the communities they visit.

## Ouje - bougoumou Senior Hockey & Broomball Tournament

November 9, 10, 11, 12, 2006

### Individual Awards Category Women's Hockey

**Champions** Waskaganish

**Finalists** Ouje-Bougoumau

**MVP** Carry Ann Weistche - Waskaganish

**Best Forward # 11** Ashley Rabbitskin Ojaj Flames

**Best Defense #29** Judas Tanoush Waskaganish

**Best Goalie** Leona Hester Waskaganish  
**Best Sportsmanship #19** Sherry Dixon Ojaj Flames

**Best Coaching Staff** Gordon Bosum Ojaj Flames

**Category Class B Hockey**

**Champions** Ojaj Hackers

continued on page 30



# Oh the Zumanity!

feature

## Cirque du Soleil's sexy Vegas show tempts and seduces

by Steve Bonspiel

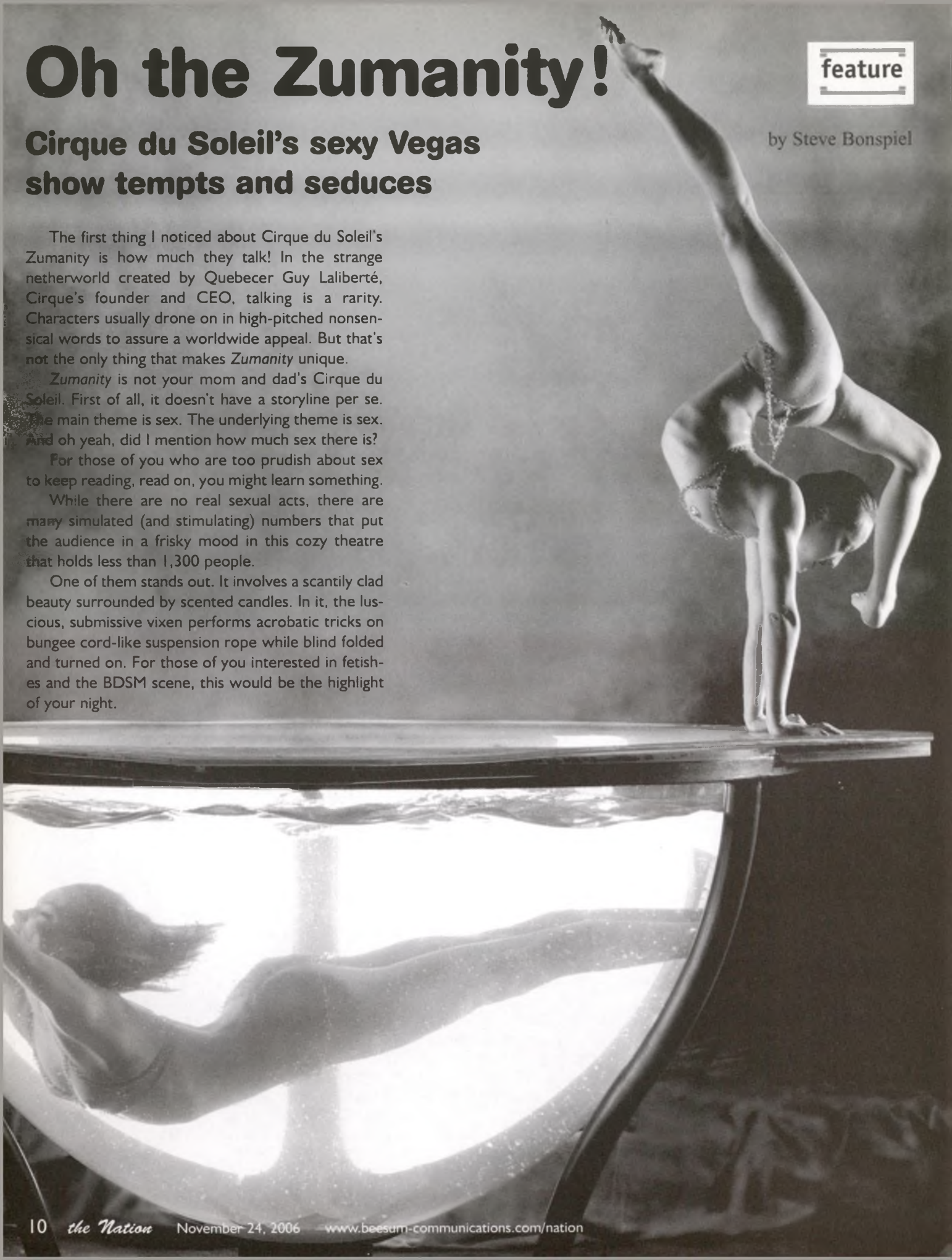
The first thing I noticed about Cirque du Soleil's *Zumanity* is how much they talk! In the strange netherworld created by Quebecer Guy Laliberté, Cirque's founder and CEO, talking is a rarity. Characters usually drone on in high-pitched nonsensical words to assure a worldwide appeal. But that's not the only thing that makes *Zumanity* unique.

*Zumanity* is not your mom and dad's Cirque du Soleil. First of all, it doesn't have a storyline per se. The main theme is sex. The underlying theme is sex. And oh yeah, did I mention how much sex there is?

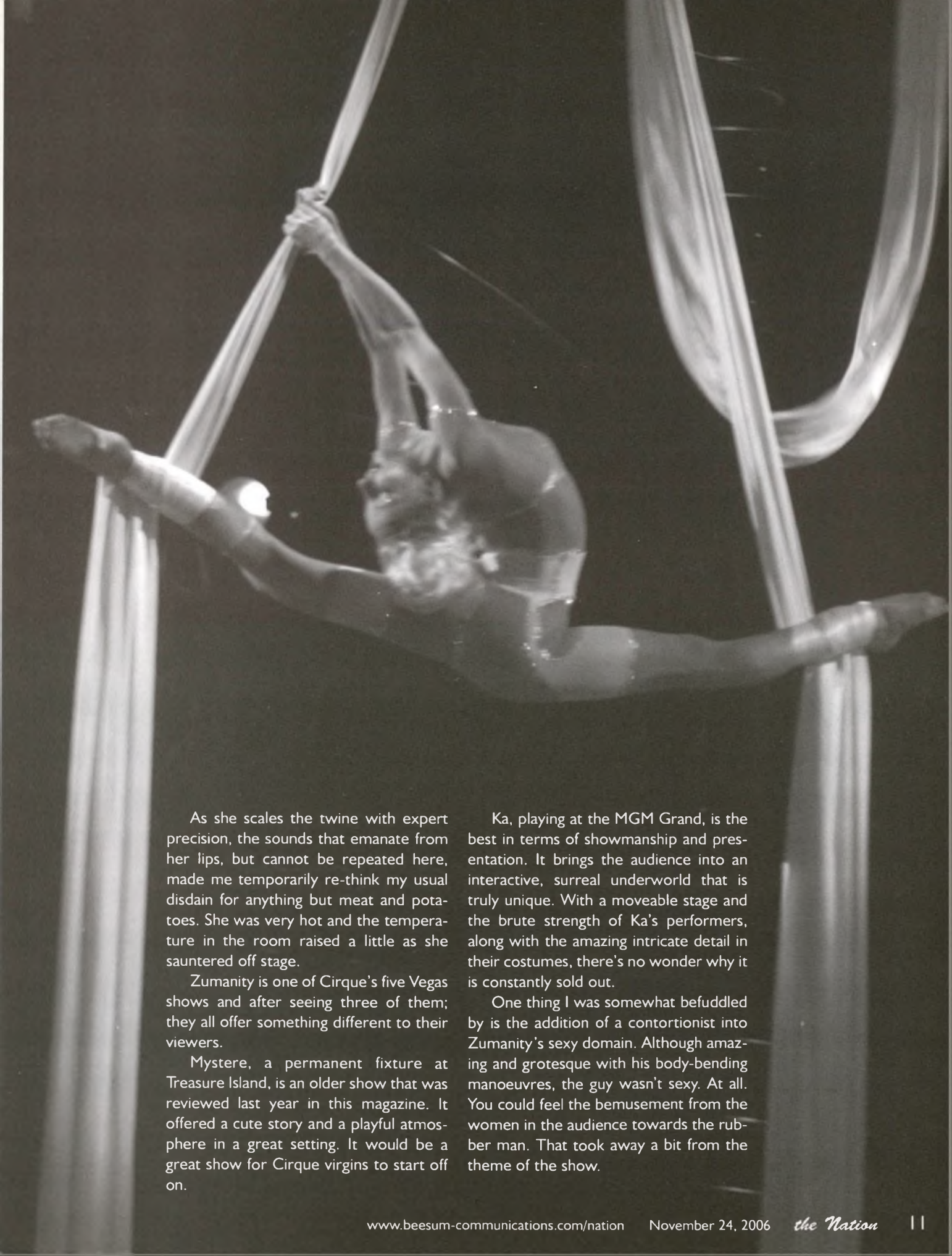
For those of you who are too prudish about sex to keep reading, read on, you might learn something.

While there are no real sexual acts, there are many simulated (and stimulating) numbers that put the audience in a frisky mood in this cozy theatre that holds less than 1,300 people.

One of them stands out. It involves a scantily clad beauty surrounded by scented candles. In it, the luscious, submissive vixen performs acrobatic tricks on bungee cord-like suspension rope while blind folded and turned on. For those of you interested in fetishes and the BDSM scene, this would be the highlight of your night.







As she scales the twine with expert precision, the sounds that emanate from her lips, but cannot be repeated here, made me temporarily re-think my usual disdain for anything but meat and potatoes. She was very hot and the temperature in the room raised a little as she sauntered off stage.

Zumanity is one of Cirque's five Vegas shows and after seeing three of them; they all offer something different to their viewers.

Mystere, a permanent fixture at Treasure Island, is an older show that was reviewed last year in this magazine. It offered a cute story and a playful atmosphere in a great setting. It would be a great show for Cirque virgins to start off on.

Ka, playing at the MGM Grand, is the best in terms of showmanship and presentation. It brings the audience into an interactive, surreal underworld that is truly unique. With a moveable stage and the brute strength of Ka's performers, along with the amazing intricate detail in their costumes, there's no wonder why it is constantly sold out.

One thing I was somewhat befuddled by is the addition of a contortionist into Zumanity's sexy domain. Although amazing and grotesque with his body-bending manoeuvres, the guy wasn't sexy. At all. You could feel the bemusement from the women in the audience towards the rubber man. That took away a bit from the theme of the show.

Hydro-Québec and SEBJ  
would like to wish *The Nation*  
a happy 13th anniversary,  
and applaud its contribution  
to communications with  
the Cree people of James Bay.



Société d'énergie  
de la Baie James



## INFLUENZA IS NOT A GAME

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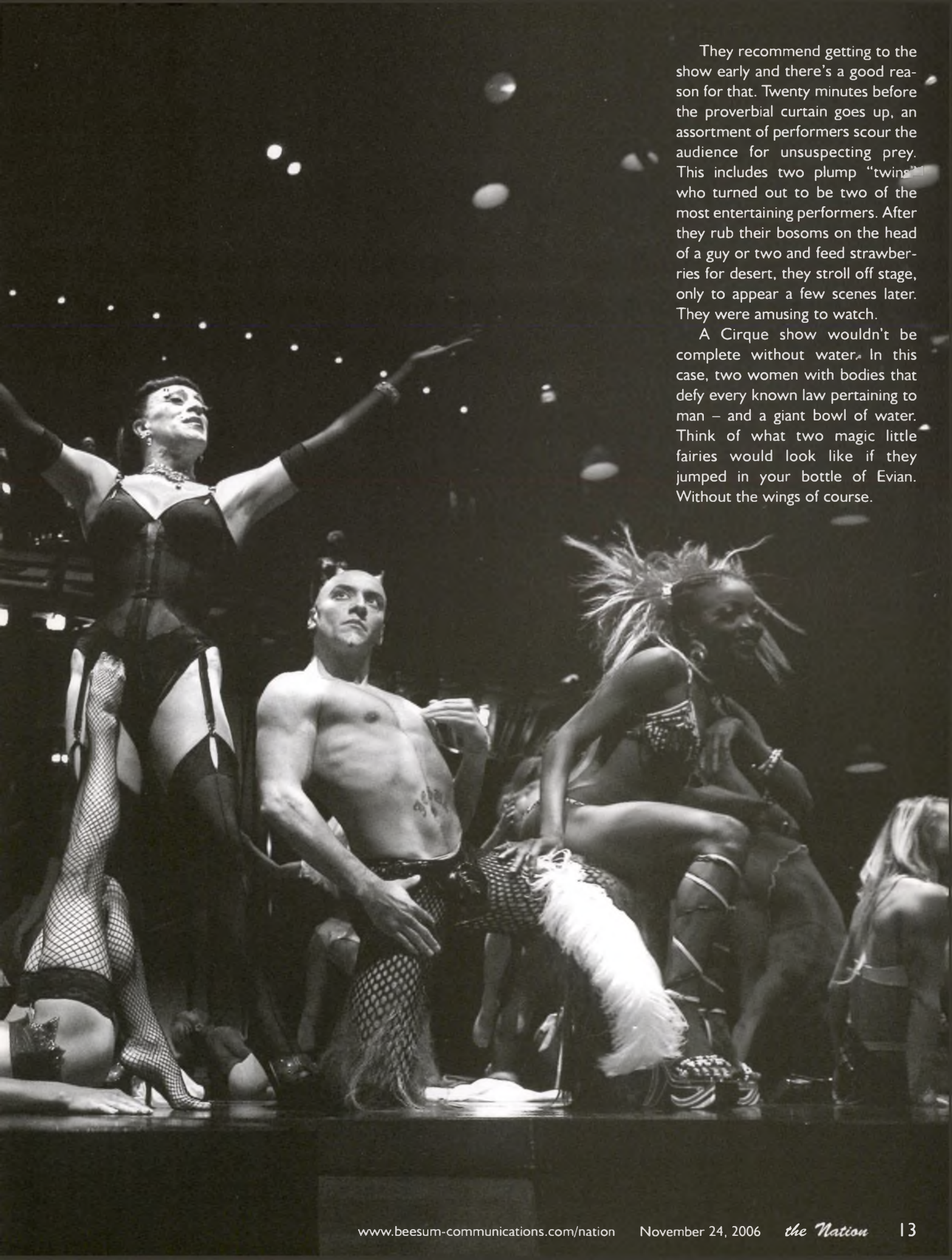
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They recommend getting to the show early and there's a good reason for that. Twenty minutes before the proverbial curtain goes up, an assortment of performers scour the audience for unsuspecting prey. This includes two plump "twins" who turned out to be two of the most entertaining performers. After they rub their bosoms on the head of a guy or two and feed strawberries for desert, they stroll off stage, only to appear a few scenes later. They were amusing to watch.

A Cirque show wouldn't be complete without water. In this case, two women with bodies that defy every known law pertaining to man – and a giant bowl of water. Think of what two magic little fairies would look like if they jumped in your bottle of Evian. Without the wings of course.



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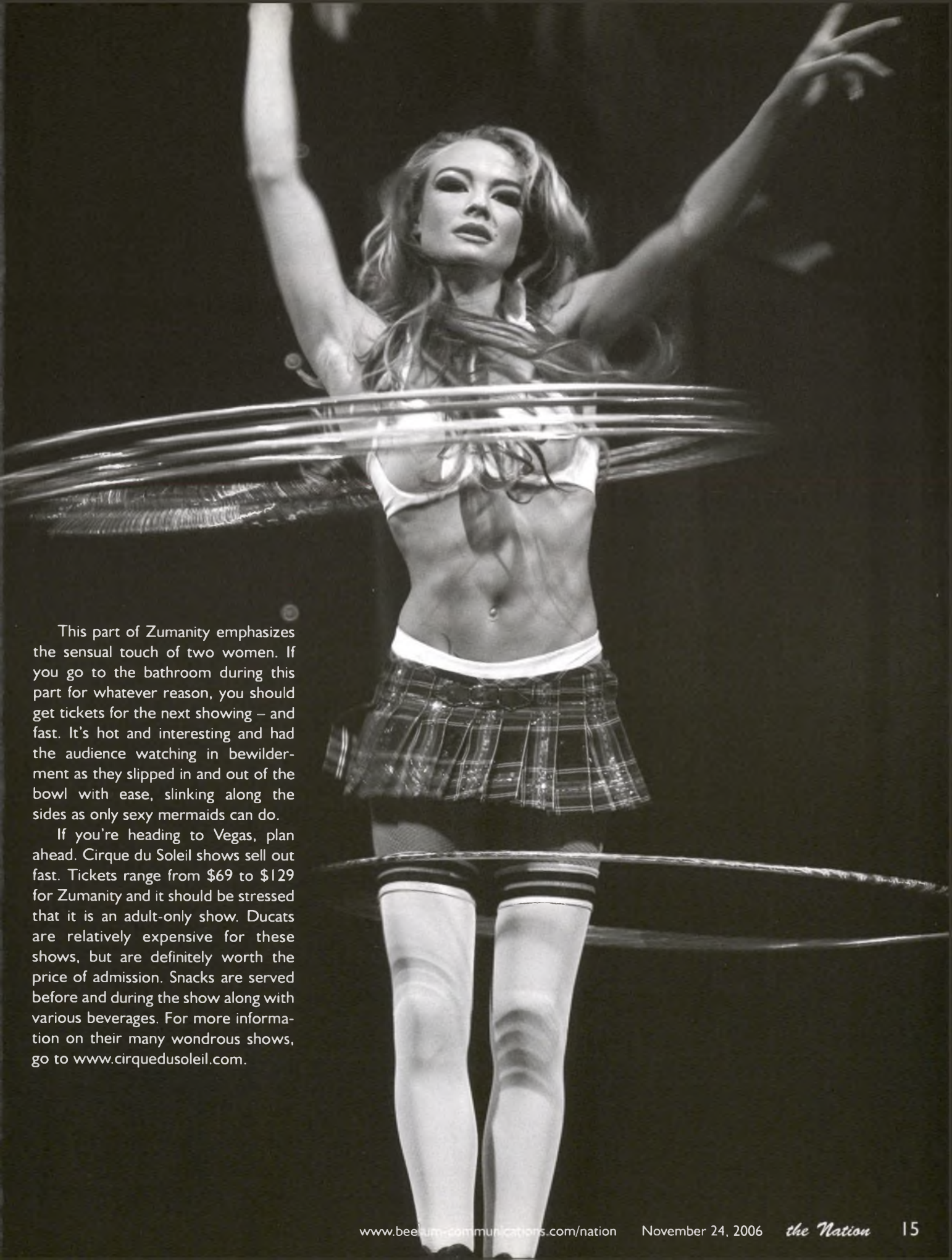
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<b>Assistance to Patients</b>	<b>February 2007</b>	<b>630 hrs</b>
<b>Northern Bldg Maintenance</b>	<b>August 2007</b>	<b>1320 hrs</b>

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This part of Zumanity emphasizes the sensual touch of two women. If you go to the bathroom during this part for whatever reason, you should get tickets for the next showing – and fast. It's hot and interesting and had the audience watching in bewilderment as they slipped in and out of the bowl with ease, slinking along the sides as only sexy mermaids can do.

If you're heading to Vegas, plan ahead. Cirque du Soleil shows sell out fast. Tickets range from \$69 to \$129 for Zumanity and it should be stressed that it is an adult-only show. Ducats are relatively expensive for these shows, but are definitely worth the price of admission. Snacks are served before and during the show along with various beverages. For more information on their many wondrous shows, go to [www.cirquedusoleil.com](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com).



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# Ho, ho, holy crap it's hard to plan a Christmas party!

by Amy German

The holiday party season is upon us and along with tidings of comfort and joy comes the stress of planning the perfect holiday party. Whether you are hosting a gathering for the kids, the adults, the office or the whole community, planning is the best way to avoid a panic. So plan, plan, plan your way into your best holiday parties possible.

## **Keep those little hands busy...**

Christmas for many is really about children and though there is a lot of talk at the moment about the evils of sugar, the holidays are all about indulgence and only happen once a year. If you are having a party for your child and their friends in your home, why not have a cookie-baking party? There is nothing kids like more than personalizing things for themselves and letting the creative energy flow so why not whip up a batch of ginger bread? Get the cookie cutter out and let the kids decorate their own gingerbread men. Even little hands can squeeze icing out of a pastry bag so that the kids can make their own designs. Outside of gingerbread and frosting, having things like raisins, candies and candied fruit provide plenty of room for their creativity.

Shortbread and sugar cookies are also fun for the little ones to decorate. Just roll, cookie-cut and lay the shapes out for the little ones to decorate with red and green sprinkles, holiday coloured M&Ms, Smarties or white icing coloured with food colouring. Kids can decorate their own Santas, Christmas trees and just about anything else you can find a cookie cutter for.

For kid-friendly gingerbread recipes go to:

<http://www.joyofbaking.com/GingerbreadMen.html>

For more cookie ideas:

[http://familyfun.go.com/recipes/special/specialfeature/holiday\\_cookies\\_ms/](http://familyfun.go.com/recipes/special/specialfeature/holiday_cookies_ms/)

Of course, if the idea of actual cooking is out of reach due to other activities going on in the house and or classroom, then try this no-bake holiday confection idea: do-it-yourself trees. All you need is a package of ice cream sugar cones, regular vanilla icing tinted green with food colouring and candies for decorations. Show the kids how to spread the green icing all over the cone with either their fingers or a Popsicle stick and provide bowls of holiday themed candy to add for decorations on the cones. Though this may be a messier (and stickier) activity it's an ideal thing to set up for a large community party and have it manned by a helpful local teenager.

Once the little ones are sugared up, its time to get them to burn it off. Organized games are the best thing possible. If it's

warm enough, take them outside for a snowman-making contest, whoever's Frosty is the most Christmas-y wins.

Indoor games can be just as much fun, too. How about pin the nose on Rudolph? All you need is a cut-out of a reindeer and red circular stickers for a nose. Another simple one is to hide some more durable ornaments around the house before the kids arrive. Divide the kids up into little teams and have them search for the ornaments, whichever team gets the most gets a prize.

There are so many different games and fun ideas for kids' parties out there that the sky is the limit. For more suggestions go to:

<http://canada.kidsdomain.com/holiday/xmas/holiday-a-f.html>

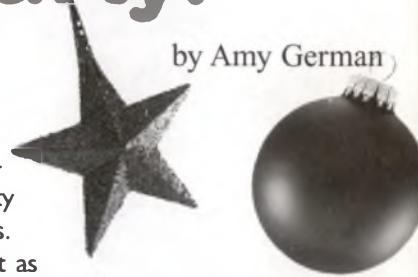
## **Office parties... things to keep in mind**

If you are responsible for planning the office Christmas party, you'd better get a move on if you haven't yet started. The larger the event, the more planning involved.

The first thing to consider is what you and your co-workers want and where to do it. If you are at a loss for ideas, however, start asking around. Don't let yourself become frustrated by having to make all of the big decisions – ask your co-workers what they would like. Would they rather go to a restaurant or pick a rented location and have it catered? Quiz your co-workers on what they want and go with the consensus. Keep in mind however that you can't please everyone.

With a location selected the next thing to consider is the invitations. The invitations should be holiday themed and most importantly all should go out at the same time as nobody likes being a second-thought invitee.

If a sit-down meal is going to be the central focus of the party, try and keep the meal planning varied as not everyone likes the same thing. If it's within the office budget, try to ensure at least two choices, chicken or beef, or perhaps something more traditional. If you are having something catered however,



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let everyone pick and choose by laying out a buffet. People like to graze and laying out things like a veggie platter, devilled eggs, mini spring rolls, chicken wings and a cracker and cheese platter are the perfect warm-up to a wonderful party.

If the office is the only option for your holiday event, merry making can still be made easy with careful planning even if your event is being held in the lunchroom. Call your local grocer and find out if they make party platters to go and if not try a restaurant. Anything that you can order pre-made and either have picked up or delivered always cuts down on stress as who wants to be up the whole night before cutting up vegetables and rolling up cold cuts?

Also, if you are responsible for the beverages, try to ensure that there are just as many things to appeal to drinkers and non-drinkers alike. Eggnog is a great choice but if you are making it from scratch, keep the booze on the side so that guests have the option. The same stands for holiday punch. Not everyone likes the same kind of holiday cheer so giving your co-workers options is the most responsible thing to do.

Knowing when to draw the line when it comes to drinking at the office party is one point that can not be stressed enough. It can be awkward when the whole company comes together, as not everyone has a great rapport with Mary in accounting or Annie in sales, but getting drunk is only a temporary solution and can be detrimental. Keep in mind that you might not be the only one experiencing a little social anxiety, one or two drinks might loosen you up but five or six may loosen you up too much. If you find yourself tempted to photocopy a body part to show the boss, you know you've had enough and it's time to find a lift home!

### ***Holiday gatherings at home and in the community***

The holidays are all about getting together, not just on Christmas Eve or Day, but in the weeks leading up to the big event. If you are throwing a party to celebrate the season, try to look at it as a who, what, when, where, why and how type of affair.

**Who:** Once you've decided on a guest list, send out all of your invitations at once as nobody likes to be an afterthought. Don't be afraid to be specific on your invitations either, if you want guests to bring a guest, specify it, if not specify that also. Christmas parties usually involve a lot of food but it's much easier for the host if they know exactly how many are coming.

**What:** Let your guests know if they should bring something. Sure it's great to have 30 guests over for a gathering but if you are one person trying to prepare a holiday meal or appetizers for a large crowd, do not be afraid to ask for help. Tell your guests if you want them to bring their own alcohol. Get one guest to bring chips, another assorted cheeses, get another to bring home made sweets and so on. As gift exchanges are part of the seasonal activities, you could also get each guest to bring a gift under \$5 or \$10 and pick names out of a hat for an exchange.

**When:** It's always a pain if you plan an elaborate gathering only to find out that your neighbours are having one the exact same night. Try and fish around to find out when your friends and community are planning their events so that there is no

overlap.

**Where:** Just because you want to get everyone together for the holidays does not necessarily mean that you have to try and squeeze them all into your house at once. A skating party is a great way to get the whole crowd together and doing something active. If you are musical or even if you are not, Christmas carols are part of the Christmas experience and carolling throughout the neighbourhood is an activity that can bring so much joy to the whole community. Afterwards the gang can enjoy hot chocolate together to warm up.

A house-to-house party is another way for folks to come together and share but at the same time cuts down on clean up and stress. With a house-to-house party, guests start out at one home for one course of a meal and then migrate on to the next participating family's home for the next course. This way no one particular person has to go through the expense or effort of planning a huge meal and everyone gets the opportunity to show off their holiday decorating and also share what is meaningful about the holiday to them. Of course, the best way to do this is if you live in close proximity to your friends so that not a lot of driving is involved.

For more info on house-to-house parties:

[http://familyfun.go.com/parties/holiday/feature/house-to-house\\_celebrations/](http://familyfun.go.com/parties/holiday/feature/house-to-house_celebrations/)

**Why:** We get together because it's Christmas, but what does Christmas mean to you? As Christmas is the kind of holiday that means different things to different people, why not express that. Get the whole group in one room and have everyone sit in a circle. One at a time, everyone can share their favourite Christmas memory and also take the time to tell everyone why they are happy to have everyone together. It's a great way to get everyone to share something personal.

**How:** How do you have the perfect Christmas party? You plan it very carefully. If you are hosting a holiday party, let your guest know if it's a casual or formal affair. If you want to do something different this year, plan a Christmas theme party. How about a red and green party where guests have to wear at least one of the season's colours to get in? As Santa hats are easy to come by these days, why not have everyone wear one to your party? Of course, if you really want to go crazy, you could even plan a Christmas in Hawaii party with festive leis and lots of pineapple-themed foods. Feeling nostalgic? What about a 1950s theme holiday party? Encourage folks to sport something vintage and limit the holiday tunes to the likes of Bing Crosby, Perry Como, Johnny Mathis, Brenda Lee and Judy Garland. The rule of thumb is, nothing can be played that was made after 1960.

Whatever you are planning, happy holidays and good luck!









# Serving up holiday cheer

by Amy German

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The holidays are all about getting together with family whether it is to trim the tree, sing Christmas carols, exchange gifts or huddle around the TV for a whole month's worth of holiday specials. A big part of being the host with the most or the hostess with the mostest is having just the perfect beverage to accompany whatever you are engaging in, but the big question is what to serve. For all those of you who have been toiling over just what luscious liquid is really going to bowl your guests over read on: the Nation has compiled the ultimate drink guide to make spreading that holiday "cheer" that much easier.

## Getting into the mood...

The holidays are a nostalgic time for many and nothing can trigger a flash from the past faster than what is under our noses. The aroma of cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, vanilla, dried citrus, cranberries or peppermint are reminiscent of Christmases past, present and future. If you are seeking a little nip to put you in the spirit, perhaps before or after an arduous shopping trip why not go for the ultimate holiday indulgence with some home-made eggnog. With or without alcohol this thick, creamy treat is the beverage most associated with Christmas.

This recipe yields 25 servings and is ideal punch bowl filler for your holiday party. It can be prepared up to 24 hours in advance and then perked up with a whirl of a hand blender. The alcohol can be added to taste depending on how boozy one wants it or the alcohol can also be swapped for a tablespoon or two of rum extract for a treat the whole family can enjoy. Should you go it sans-booze, add an extra cup or two of milk if the concoction is too thick. (Caution: this is not a beverage for pregnant women as it requires raw eggs.)

## Traditional Eggnog

12 eggs  
3 1/4 c icing sugar  
1/2 tea spoon of salt  
1/8 cup vanilla  
10 cup milk  
Brandy, rum, scotch or rye  
(or a combo of any of the four, totalling no more than 4 cups for a very boozy version)  
Nutmeg

1) Beat eggs in large bowl until light and yellowish  
2) Slowly beat in sugar, salt and vanilla.



3) Stir in milk. Add liquor or extra milk to your liking

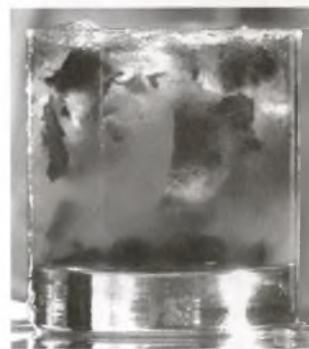
4) Garnish with some freshly grated nutmeg or ground nutmeg

To store for a few days, keep covered in fridge.

"Here we come a-wassailing, among the leaves so green"

Though our leaves might not be so green as the song implies, this holiday punch dates back to Western Europe where it has been a holiday delight for centuries. Traditionally this warm mulled spice beverage was made with alcohol however this non-alcoholic version is a great winter warm up that the whole family can enjoy. Of course, should you want to give it a kick, one cup of dark rum, brandy or vodka (for a lighter tasting version) at room temperature can be added for the grown ups.

2 1/4 cups white sugar  
4 cups water  
2 cinnamon sticks  
1 slice fresh ginger root  
4 cups orange juice  
2 cups lemon juice  
8 cups apple juice  
8 whole allspice berries  
1 tablespoon whole cloves



1) In a large saucepan, combine sugar and water. Boil for 5 minutes.

2) Remove from heat, and add cinnamon sticks, allspice berries, cloves, and ginger.

3) Cover and let stand in warm place for 1 hour.

Strain the concoction into a large cooking pot. Just before serving, add juices and cider and quickly bring to boil. Remove from heat (add optional alcohol) and serve.

## Candy canes anyone?

If nothing says Christmas to you like this sweet, striped treat, the following two very different beverages are just the thing to kick off your Christmas season.

## White Christmas Hot Chocolate

1.5 cups of milk  
1 1/4 ounces of finely chopped white chocolate  
1 ounce of crushed candy canes (approximately 2 regular size)  
Pinch of salt/ whipped cream





- 1) Pour the milk into a saucepan and bring it to a simmer over medium heat.
  - 2) Reduce heat to medium-low.
  - 3) Add the chocolate, half of the crushed candy canes, and a pinch of salt.
  - 4) Whisk until smooth and creamy, then pour into a coffee mug.
- Top with whipped cream and the remaining crushed candy canes.

### **Adults-only Candy Cane Martini**

- 1 1/2 oz. Vodka
- 1 tsp. Peppermint schnapps
- 1 oz. Club Soda

- 1) Mix your ingredients in a cocktail shaker with ice
- 2) Strain into a chilled martini glass

This festive beverage can either be topped with a mini candy cane or for those who are really feeling festive, rim martini glass with crushed candy canes



### **Mulled delights!**

For some it just wouldn't be Christmas without mulled wine and if you've a warm fireplace to sip it by, all the better. As little ones can feel left out when the grown-ups are having something special to drink, we have provided both an authentic version for the big people and a mock version for little ones or those who would prefer to keep their wits about them.

### **Mulled Grape Juice**

- 2 litres of real red, no sugar added, grape juice
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup sugar
- 24 whole cloves
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1 orange peel
- 1 lemon peel
- 1 crushed nutmeg
- 2-3 cups of hot lemon/lime juice

Heat the water and add sugar, cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg and peel.

Boil the mixture for 5 minutes and leave to simmer for 5 more. Strain the syrupy remainder into a large pot and add the citrus juice and heat until it's gently bubbling.

Add the grape juice and keep it on a low heat, serve

### **Traditional Mulled Wine**

- 2 lemons
- 2 oranges
- 1 bottle red wine
- Nutmeg and cloves (to taste)
- 2 ounces brandy
- 1 cup sugar (optional)

- 1) Slice the lemons and oranges.
  - 2) Heat the wine in a saucepan: do not boil.
  - 3) Add the fruit, brandy, nutmeg and cloves to the wine. If using sugar, add when the wine is hot.
- Pour into mugs and garnish with cinnamon sticks

### **Champagne Cocktails**

Champagne is the ultimate celebration beverage and at a minimum of \$50 a bottle for the real deal, it's earned a place in the hierarchy of drinks. Champagne cocktails like mimosas or poinsettias are a wonderful complement to a holiday brunch and are also a wonderful accompaniment to a romantic Christmas morning by the tree for a couple of lovebirds. Any dry sparkling white wine can be substituted for wines from the "Champagne region" and the difference is virtually unnoticeable due to the juice dilution.

### **Mimosas**

- 1 oz orange juice
- 3oz champagne

Pour orange juice into a champagne flute  
Slowly top with champagne

Drink but do not stir this beverage, as you will lose your bubbles.

### **Poinsettia**

- 1/4 shot triple sec
- A splash of cranberry juice
- Champagne

Pour Triple Sec and cranberry juice into a champagne flute.  
Add in champagne to fill.

Once again this beverage should not be mixed so just pour and serve.

Regardless as to your plans for the holidays, the best recipe for a good tidings and cheer is to drink responsibly and never, ever get behind the wheel if you've had the heavier versions of these drinks.





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# Homemade for the holidays

by Amy German

Christmas is without a doubt the most expensive holiday of the year and with the passage of time it grows ever more costly. Looking back to Christmas past however, there was a time where people gave each other things like sweets, preserves, garments and toys that they made themselves and celebrated the true spirit of the season by giving of themselves. They may not be as flashy as electronics or as symbolic as gold and diamond jewellery but these gifts are representative of another rare commodity in our busy society, one's time and heartfelt effort.

## Give holiday magic...

If you are the slightest bit crafty or even if you aren't, sewing and decorating your own Christmas stockings can be as easy or as complicated as you desire and it's a delightful way to show someone just how fond of them you are.

Stockings can be made from velvet, fun fleece, old corduroy, an old woollen blanket or even leather depending on whether you would rather make them from something new or go it old school and make them out of material scraps from around the house. They can also be knitted depending on how much time you want to devote to the project.

To begin, make a stocking pattern out of paper depending on what size of stocking you desire. A simple way is if you already have old Christmas stockings around the house that you can trace. If you don't feel confident in creating your own pattern, download and cut out this pattern from the Internet, available here:

<http://jas.familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts?page=CraftDisplay&craftid=11052>

With your pattern cut, pin sides together and either stitch it from the inside out or the outside in using an overlay stitch with perhaps some gold or silver thread or thread of a different colour. With the stocking sewn, it's time to trim the opening of the stocking with just about whatever you like from faux fur to felt or different coloured fabric. Decorate with a felt appliqué of the recipient's name, a felt cut-out of something festive, jingle bells, an ornament or just about anything else you would desire.

For more detailed instructions:

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_9280\\_make-socking.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_9280_make-socking.html)

And for decorative ideas:



[http://familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts/season/feature/ff1003\\_stockings/ff1003\\_stockings.html](http://familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts/season/feature/ff1003_stockings/ff1003_stockings.html)

Homemade Christmas ornaments are another lovely gift idea for the Christmas lover in your circle of friends and family. They are also a gift that keeps on giving as every year the recipient will look back and remember you and your heartfelt efforts when they decorate their tree.

## Simple ornaments

Should you happen to have an abundance of pinecones in your midst, with a little bit of gold or silver spray paint these gifts of nature make for wonderful and festive ornaments. Simply lay pine cones out on an old sheet of newspaper in well-ventilated room or if you can bare it, outside. Allow to dry, tie a loop of matching thread to the stem and voila, an instant box of ornaments.

As cinnamon is an aroma that we often associate with the holiday season, why not try these delightful, easy-to-make ornaments that are not only attractive and inexpensive but also fill the home with a wonderful scent.

Make the dough with the following recipe:

- 1 cup of ground cinnamon (it does not have to be high quality)
- 1 tsp. cloves
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 3/4 c. applesauce
- 2 tablespoons of white school glue
- Cookie cutters
- Paint, for decoration, fabric glue or acrylic works fine
- Ribbon of any desired colour

Mix the first five ingredients to make dough, knead until stiff.

Dust out your rolling surface with cinnamon and roll out dough to about a 1/4-inch thick

Cut with cookie cutters into desired shapes, anything from angels to gingerbread men to stars or any other cookie cutter available to you.

Place all of your freshly cut ornaments onto a sheet of wax paper and cut small holes at the top to allow the ribbons. Allow to dry for up to two to four days, turning frequently to ensure that they have dried properly.

Once the ornaments have dried, paint and decorate in the way you would a cookie, affix ribbons and your done

There are so many different varieties of home made ornaments that can be made easily, even by little hands. For more ornament gift ideas, why not check out what Martha Stewart, the queen of home entertaining, suggests on her website at <http://www.marthastewart.com>



## Love in a jar

Truly wonderful gifts that are reminiscent of Christmas past are homemade preserves in hand-labelled jars. In the past, folks traditionally gave fruit jams for morning toast as fruit was scarce in wintertime. However, as ingredients from far away are so much easier come by these days the possibilities are literally endless. This lovely apricot-jalapeño jelly is a wonderful accompaniment to pork and other meats and makes 7 to 8 half cup jars.

### Apricot-Jalapeño Jelly

1/2 cup chopped jalapeño peppers, stems and seeds removed  
1 large red bell pepper, stem and seeds removed (optional)  
2 cups cider vinegar  
1-1/2 cups dried apricots, chopped  
6 cups of white sugar  
1 package of Certo liquid pectin

Place jalapeños, bell pepper, and vinegar in blender and purée until coarsely ground.

Combine apricots, sugar, and pepper-vinegar mixture in large saucepan and bring to a boil, allow to boil rapidly for five minutes

Remove the pot from the heat and scoop off any froth or foam. Allow the preserve to cool for a few minutes, mix in the pectin.

Pour into sterilised jars, seal, and allow cooling.

Process in a water bath for ensured preservation



If you have never made preserves before, have a look at the link below from the *Reader's Digest* web page as preserves need to be done properly in order to ensure safety. Nobody wants botulism for the holiday season!

[http://www.readersdigest.ca/christmas/home\\_made\\_gift/preserve.html](http://www.readersdigest.ca/christmas/home_made_gift/preserve.html)

*Readers Digest* also has some wonderful recipes for other gifts from the kitchen at:

[http://www.readersdigest.ca/christmas/home\\_made\\_gift/home.html](http://www.readersdigest.ca/christmas/home_made_gift/home.html)

### Give warmth...

With the cold season upon us, staying warm is something that is on the minds of just about everyone. Homemade mitts, scarves and hats are a practical and thoughtful gift for just about everyone on your list and can be



knitted or fashioned out of leather by skilled hands but what if you are not just not a good knitter or have never worked with leather before? The answer is simple, fun fleece! Fleece is inexpensive, easy to come by and most importantly it's fun to work with!

As it's still early on in the season, there is plenty of time left yet to measure the hands and heads of potential recipients. Sure they may find it a little odd when you ask them to lay their hands down on paper so that you may trace their hands to get the size right. Measuring their heads may also come off, as strange but hey, chances are you would not be taking the measurements of someone you don't already have a close enough rapport with them, right? If you really don't want to ruin the surprise, however, measure the hands and head of someone else who looks similar in size.

For mittens, take your traced hand and retrace it on to another sheet of paper adding a half-inch all the way around to allow for seams. Cut your pattern, pin on to fleece and cut your material. Sew sides together. Pin a fabric, elastic band along the inside of the mitts and gather the material evenly with the pins. If this seems too difficult, you can also cut a one-inch strip of fleece the same circumference of the wrist of the mitt and sew a fabric tube to string the elastic through with a safety pin and seal up. The mitts can be decorated in just about any way with appliqué faces for little children or the initials of your loved one for big people.

With the mitts made, cutting a scarf from the same material requires very little effort as fun fleece does not fray. Measure out the desired length and cut away! You can cut fringes into the end if so desired, trim it with colourful threads and do like wise with the mitts or sew on various different appliqués depending on individual tastes. Someone's initials are a lovely and tasteful suggestion.

Fleece hats can be slightly more complicated, depending on what type of hat you would like. A pattern can be made from an old hat from around the house or by taking your head circumference measurement, adding two inches to allow for seams and then dividing by four.

Use the quarter measurement to make your pattern by first marking the length on paper, this will be the base of your triangle as the idea is to sew the four triangles together in the form of a hat with all of the points meeting up for the crown of the head. The lengths may vary depending on whether the hat is being made for a child or adult so measure out approximately how long you think would be necessary. If it appears that your hat may be too long, do not worry as the base can be rolled up to form a brim or hemmed underneath depending on the desired length. Cut the pattern, sew the triangles together and decorate if so desired.

This is a simple design for those with a bit of sewing experience. Should you not feel confident cutting your own pattern, go to these following websites for other hat ideas:

[http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/cr\\_sewing/article/0,1789,HGTV\\_3320\\_3378664,00.html](http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/cr_sewing/article/0,1789,HGTV_3320_3378664,00.html)

<http://jas.familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts?page=CraftDisplay&craftid=10034>

# For gamers this x-mas, the only question is when do I get Wii?

by Amy German

Trying to envision what the average video game fanatic would like to see under the tree this Christmas season, the Nation dropped by the Arcadia video gaming convention held November 10-12 at the Uniprix Stadium.

It's no big secret that gaming isn't just for children anymore, particularly when you look at the cost of some of the systems available. Many of them today are intended as multimedia centres, equipped with DVD players and are HD compatible.

## New consoles

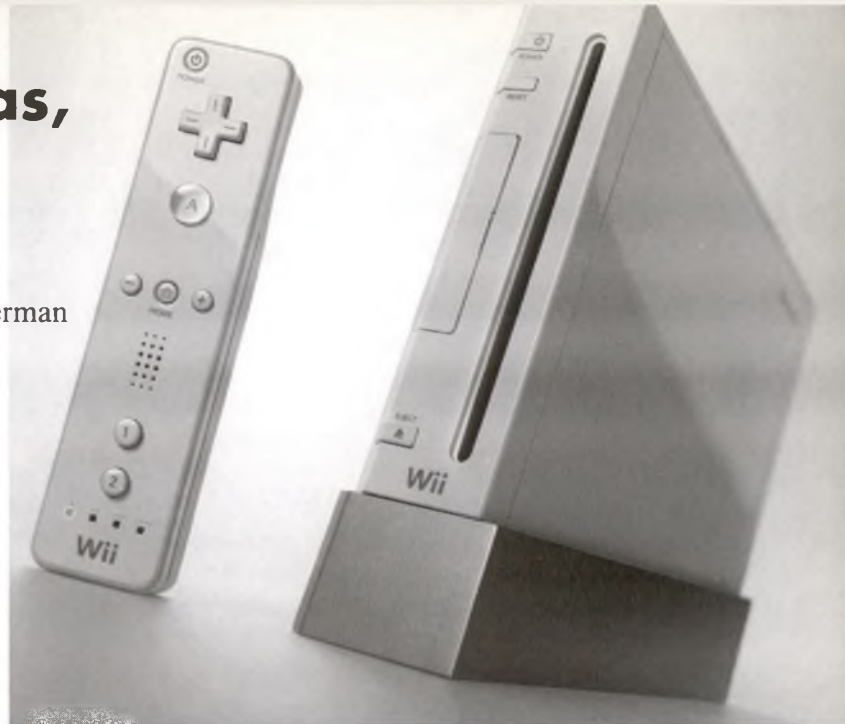
The big talk of this year's edition of Arcadia and just about any gaming message board is the new Nintendo Wii. The Wii is the evolution of home game systems and pretty much makes its predecessor, Nintendo Game Cube, instantly obsolete.

The Wii is physically interactive, its graphics are spellbinding and it comes at an affordable cost at around \$259. Games are played with the use of one or two hand held remotes and a great deal of the movement is contingent on how well the player wields their wits. Instead of moving buttons or levers on a remote, you move the whole remote.

Says Steve Jackson, a rep for Nintendo showing off the goods at Arcadia, "Instead of just relying on graphics in the same old style of games, playing with a controller, we decided to come up with a new controller. This one that comes with the Wii remote which is motion sensitive has free axis tilt detection as well as excel 'roamer' which knows what type of speed is being used with it. It has rumble feature and it has a speaker in it."

It doesn't end there. "So like if you hit a tennis ball in Wii Sports you are going to hear the pop and the rumble on the racket and then you are going to hear the sound travel to the TV," says Jackson. "Or in Zelda when you pull back the bow you are going to hear the string get taut and then when you let it go it's going to fly to the screen and hit the enemy on the screen."

Another finer point of the Wii is that people can now actually get exercise while playing video games, particularly with the Wii Sports games. The console can actually count your calories while you burn them. "You also have the nun-chuck device (a remote that is part of the system)," says Jackson, "which will be for different kinds of games. Wii sports use them for boxing so you have both hands, with boxing you actually box."



So much for the stereotypical overweight video game addict. This new concept will get gamers out of their seats and sweating it out.

Also new this season is the new Sony Playstation 3 which promises to be the bomb in graphics but comes with a hefty price tag at approximately \$659 for the high-end version (it's about half the price for the cheapie version).

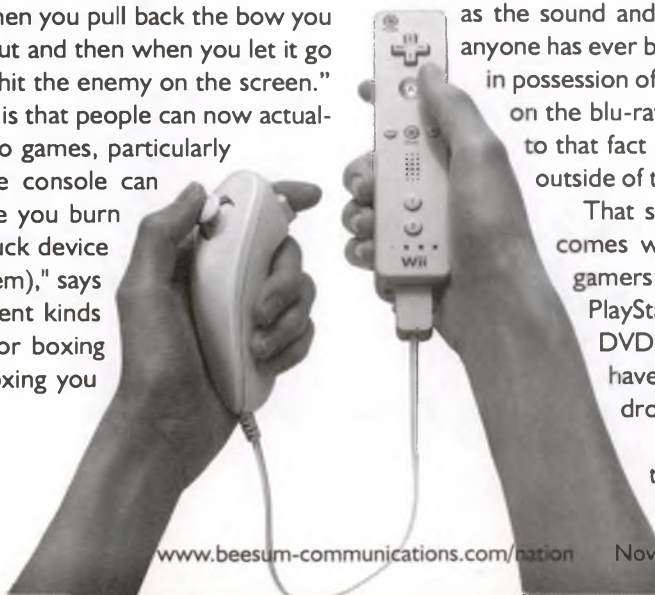
This is, however, a High Definition-based console and upon first glance is probably the most advanced home gaming system in existence. It is not just a game console but also home entertainment system that has massive storage and plays movies.

This system would not be worth it if you don't have a HD television as on a regular TV, the technological advances won't make a difference. According to Playstation.com, what makes this system worth the purchase is the new, built-in "Blu-ray Disc." The blu-ray has been described by many experts as the technological leap from DVDs, kind of like when we went from CDs to DVDs.

According to Sony, The drive "delivers a whole new generation in high-definition gaming and unmatched digital media storage." This will also in time become the new format for movies as the sound and picture quality is well beyond what anyone has ever been able to achieve thus far. If you are in possession of an HD-capable television, holding off on the blu-ray is probably advisable right now due to that fact that its next to impossible to get one outside of the Play Station for upwards of \$1000.

That said, the high end version of the PS3 comes with a 60GB hard drive and allows gamers to play thousands of PS one and PlayStation2 games as well as your CDs and DVDs. It's well worth the scratch if you have it but it is a hefty chunk of change to drop on gaming.

There is a myriad of new games out this season to accompany these hot





new systems and something for just about everyone out there that has even the slightest interest.

Ubisoft is offering up its fourth Rayman Raving Rabbids game for the new Nintendo Wii. New out this season of the Tom Clancy series, Ubisoft is also has Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six: Counter Terror, which has had some great reviews for those that love a first-person shooter game. And newly unveiled at Arcadia, Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Vegas. For the little ones or at least for those who don't like their games as bloody, Ubisoft has also just released Open Season, just like the hit film for those who want to extend their movie-going experience.

Big-bad-boy video game producer Rockstar, known for the Grand Theft Auto series, also has some new arrivals for the holiday season. The release garnering the most media attention at the moment is Bully, which is kind of like an antithesis to GTA. Instead of being on an incessant stealing rampage, Bully is set in a high school and as the main character you are being bullied. The object of the game is to take down the bullies thus becoming the Bully.

Though the game is drawing several Columbine comparisons, Rockstar has never been one to disappoint. The game is now available for PS2 (which means that you can play it on the PS3 if you are willing to make that plunge) and will probably be one of the season's hottest sellers. Also from Rockstar, is Rockstar Games Presents Table Tennis. Though it's hard to believe that table tennis could ever be so enthralling, this long-awaited game is apparently quite the marvel as the reviews are absolutely raving.

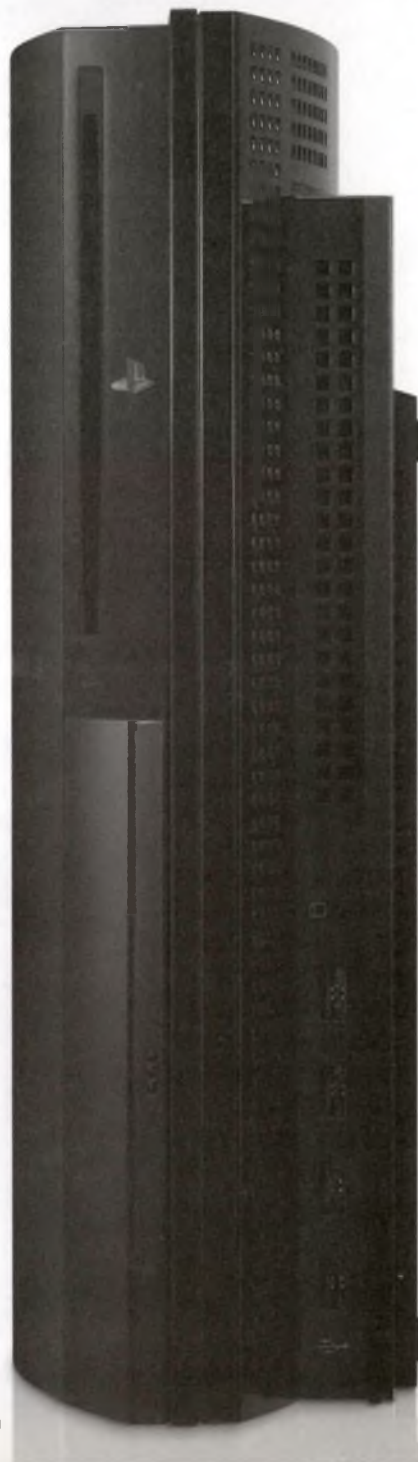
If you are interested in a novelty type first person shooter game with a nostalgic flare, why not check out Sierra's Scarface: The World is Yours. It may not have done as well on the market as anticipated thus far but for those who just can't get enough Tony Montana and have fantasized about being him, this is the closest to the experience you can get without getting arrested. Granted the game engine is incredibly similar to Grand Theft Auto, Vice City, the story takes off as a "what if" type scenario, if Tony lived through the grand shoot finale of the film. As Tony you need to earn your money back, work your way back into the mansion and you as Tony can go into "coke rage," to shoot out opponents. It might not have that much longevity but it's certainly a hoot.

For those who like a slower kind of game play, EA Games has just released a marvelous new expansion pack, The Sims 2 Pets. The Sims 2 is quite similar to the original Sims where you create characters and families, get them jobs, design their

homes and create little virtual lives for you're your little characters. Think of it as a digital dollhouse for adults.

For those of you who are familiar with the Sims 2, this long awaited expansion pack gives your Sims the ability not only adopt pets but for you to create them in a game engine very similar to making adult Sims. These cats and dogs can get jobs and have their own litters of puppies and kittens and strangely move around and act very similarly to real dogs and cats. Unlike some of their more recent expansion packages, The Sims 2 Pets is really worth picking up as it adds a whole new dimension to the game play and the pets are unbelievably cute!

There is so much new out this season that it would be impossible to put it all in one article so, for more information on where to get any of these products and so much else that's hot in video gaming this season, go to <http://www.futureshop.ca>

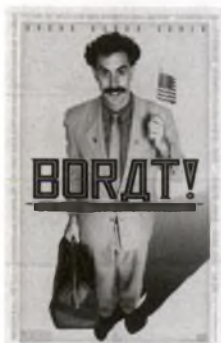




# SCREEN SHOTS

Autumn Movie Lineup – November

by The Shadow Critics



**Borat** – The movie is disturbing on many levels. It intends not only to offend the audience, but many of the people in the movie are unsuspecting targets for the absurd and disturbing actions and dialogue of the title character. In fact, there has been word of lawsuits by those who were unwittingly depicted in a negative context in the movie. While there is no doubt that some scenes are amusing, and spark as much shock as laughter, you cannot help but feel more than a little uncomfortable at times. The rating in Montreal should be reflective of those in

the U.S. to restrict it from younger audiences. As Pamela Anderson recently talked about, there are instances when it is perhaps more staged or at least cleared with people than a shock reality-based production. The movie has been endorsed by many reviewers in North America, but I did not leave the theatre feeling I had been entertained.



**Babel** – The movie is really about four stories being told at once, and all somehow interconnected. The first story is of an American couple on a tour bus traveling through Morocco on a vacation when the wife, Cate Blanchet, is hit by an errant bullet. The husband, played by Brad Pitt, frantically rushes to find a hospital or doctor somewhere in the country to save his wife's life. It sparks an international incident. The second story is about a Moroccan family herding goats in the mountains. The third story is about

an illegal Mexican domestic worker living in the U.S. The fourth story is about a Japanese father and his hearing impaired daughter surviving the loss of the mother. The story is well told, and the direction is good.



**Flushed Away** – The animated movie offering from England is dubbed the best animated film to date. The animation is impressive. The accents are unmistakable, and the scenery is heavily influenced by British culture. However, there is some entertainment for children here, and I heard some younger laughs while watching the film. Perhaps in the effects department this movie is superior, but as far as plots and overall entertainment value there has been some better offerings in terms of children's animation. The

moral is a favourite, you can have a perfect life in many respects, but if you do not have friends or someone to share it with, it can be a perfectly lonely life. The main character realizes what he is missing as he befriends people along his journey to get back what he has lost. The movie was a good family offering but not equal to the level of hype promoting this film.



**Santa Clause III: The Escape Clause** - When they start showing Christmas movies you know you are in trouble. It is time to start thinking about getting some shopping done, or where you put the decorations last year. The plot is simple, Jack Frost, played by Martin Short, feels like an underappreciated children's icon so he takes over Christmas. He fools the current Santa, played by Tim Allen, into giving up the jovial lifestyle to return to his previous

uninspired corporate self. The movie is interesting, with a moral lesson of how commercial Christmas could really be if we let it. I do not know if this is a feel-good flick, or if it is a necessary sequel to the other two installments by Tim Allen. I would rate it mediocre at best, and I did not leave the theatre feeling festive.

Will  
Farrell  
Maggie  
Gyllenhaal  
Dustin  
Hoffman  
Emma  
Thompson

## Stranger than Fiction



**Stranger than Fiction** – Previously, I have stated that Will Farrell does not seem to do a movie without a requisite scene of him running naked. In the case of Stranger than Fiction, he bucks not only this trend but delivers a good performance that is more serious than comedy. As Harold Crick he leads a pretty bland life, counting toothbrush strokes, working as a tax agent, and being alone. It is not until he starts hearing a voice narrating his life that he realizes just how wrong it is. As he puts it, the narrator is right on the mark about his life, but tells it with better words than he does. He awakens to the dangers of this telling of the story as the narrator, Emma Thompson, says he will die. He then tries everything he can to live life the way he should have, and question what he thought was life in the past. His guide through this is Dustin Hoffman, as a literature professor at a local college, he is helping to determine whether his story will turn out to be a comedy or tragedy. Will's love interest in the film is a baker, Maggie Gyllenhaal, who he is investigating for tax evasion but she seems to have a handle on how to really live life. The movie is one of the better films in the theatres in the last while.



# Silent hunter

In the October 27 issue, the picture of Bill Namagoose (with his protest sign against a Hydro-Quebec dam) with the caption under this picture "Referendum turnout was healthy" was a bit amusing for me. I was there at that protest and we were on the same side then.

Back then, I thought my shoulders would fall off from all the patting on the back by our Cree leaders. Everybody wanted to be seen with a Cree hunter and trapper, besides quoting them, word for word. How times have changed. Today, the hunters and trappers just do not want to go near some Cree leaders for fear they might get a big kick in the butt. Yup, there was a story once upon a time where a certain Cree Chief punched a person from the hunting society in a bar and it was about the said referendum. (That's what I heard through the grapevine.) Enough said.

Also, Bill's definition of "democracy" is different from mine. No big deal, he lives in the city and we live in the woods. Two different planets, if you ask me.

If there was such a sophisticated and transparent decision-making process and real democracy in the Cree world then the three Cree Chiefs would not be in the "awkward" situation they are in today.

Is that democracy also where Bill Namagoose is Chief Editor of Eeyou-Eenou Nation (the voice of the people) magazine, that only gives a one-sided, pro-development view on Cree traplines (the "my way or the highway" articles he authors). To me, as a hunter and trapper, Bill's articles if read carefully, encourage Cree hunter and trapper bashing. Is democracy where a leader or leaders try to silence the voice of the hunters and trappers who with their large families fight against encroaching and terrifying, unchecked development every day on their ancestral traplines?

"Referendum turnout was healthy" the article would have been too obvious in Eeyou/Eenou Nation magazine and probably would have broken the camel's back for me, anyways.

As for the three Cree Chiefs in that "awkward" situation:somebody, somewhere, sometime, put them there.

Call that democracy-you can have it and if you own a magazine, write your "my way or the highway" articles.

Staying silent is a characteristic of a hunting and gathering society, a trick used often in the woods to stay close to animals, as to see them first, before they hear or notice you. To remain silent in today's world, however, is to live dangerously.

As for the lower turnout of the voters in Waskaganish on the referenda, it's their river where they get their drinking water and fish supply we would sell in the Paix des Braves deal. They just walked away, because of the frustration, a plan was imposed on them, without their full knowledge.

It is well documented now, by certain universities, that hunting and gathering societies are "band people" (living in groups in different hunting areas) and mobility is another characteristic of such societies. And sharing is the central rule of such societies too, which include the James Bay Cree: they "vote with their feet," moving or walking away rather than giving in to unpopular leaders and their decisions.

The central rule of sharing that our nuclear families were born with was taken advantage of by greedy outsiders also.

In Bill's article, there is no mention of the brave people of Chisasibi (the biggest Cree community of all) who voted against the said referenda. These people are my true heroes, if you ask me.

I have mentioned this before: is that democracy, where we double-speak in the Grand Council of the Cree general assemblies, write everything in the minutes what was said in "English" and just forget what was said in "Cree". Most of our trappers and hunters talk only "Cree" and definitely can not read "English" at what some of our great leaders are writing about or endorsing.

Democracy is not making deals behind closed doors and then expecting everyone to approve of it, including the hunters and trappers who are going to lose the most in the deal and the very last to hear about it.

If you ask me, in order to sell the Paix des Braves deal to our people, the "carrot on a stick" trick was used. As they say in the city, "money talks." Up here in the far north, "Land talks."

Paul Dixon  
Waswanipi


## in brief

continued from page 9

**Finalists** Ojay Wolves  
**MVP** #9 Martin Dufour Hackers  
**Best Forward** #88 Waylan Martin Hunter Hackers  
**Best Defense** #23 Kevin Talbot Hackers  
**Best Goalie** Francois Korinski Hackers  
**Best Sportsmanship** Norman Neeposh T. Wolves  
**Best Coaching Staff** Sam C. Bosum Jr. Hackers Rodernick Petawabano  
**Selectors** Norman Petawabano  
**Category Old Timer's Hockey Champions** Waswanipi **Finalist's** Mistissini  
**MPV** Matthew Ottereyes Waswanipi

**Best Forward** Tom Matoush Mistissini  
**Best Defense** Phillip Neeposh Mistissini  
**Best goalie** Ben Shecapio Mistissini  
**Best Sportsmanship** Bentley Mianscum Waswanipi  
**Best Coaching Staff** Sam C. Bosum (Jr) Ouje-Bougoumau Legends  
**Category Broom Ball MVP** Kristine Trapper Mistissini  
**Best Forward** Daisy Ottereyes Waswanipi  
**Best Defense** #99 Victoria Longchap Waswanipi  
**Best Goalie** Mistissini Goalie Mistissini Glaciers

**Best Sportsmanship** #11 Monique Saganash Waswanipi  
**Best Coaching Staff** Charlotte Ottereyes Waswanipi  
**Category Class A Champions** Mistissini Trappers  
**Finalists** Wemotaci  
**MVP** Titus Metabie Mistissini  
**Best forward** Welsey Petawabino Wemotaci  
**Best Defense** Earl Mianscum Mistissini  
**Best Goalie** Luke Mianscum Mistissini  
**Best Sportsmanship** Matthew Brazeau #9 Wemotaci  
**Best Coaching Staff** Wemotaci



# UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

## Pie in the sky

by Xavier Kataquapit

As I finished having a meal of roast pork recently, I got the bright idea to turn my leftovers into a meat pie. However, I had to deal with the fact that I have never made a pie crust before. I was not afraid to try. My mom Susan baked many pies and as far back as I can remember she showed my brothers and sisters and I the steps in making a piecrust. In fact, she baked pies in Attawapiskat to generate some income for the family by selling them in the community. I have memories of mom turning her kitchen into a bakery. She assigned us all to tasks that included mixing dough, pouring filling and crimping the edges of the piecrust. She handled the important task of rolling out the dough and placing the resulting round shapes carefully into pans.

As I worked in the kitchen to make my own meat pie, I thought of all the tips and tricks mom provided us in producing piecrust. First, I made my filling by frying ground beef with some onions and adding this to my pork and vegetables. Then I set about making the crust.

I found a recipe from a stack of cook books my friend Emily keeps handy in the kitchen. The next thing you know I was ready to start baking. Emily was also there to keep an eye on my work and make sure I did not mess up my crust. I suspected the recipe was not difficult but the hardest part was getting a proper mix of ingredients to make a solid heavy ball of sticky dough. Another difficult part was rolling out the dough.

I learned from my mom that a generous amount of plain flour on the counter, on your rolling pin and on your hands makes the work a lot easier. After a few failed attempts, I got my crust to the right thickness and laid out my flattened dough onto the prepared pie plates. I had no trouble in crimping the crusts shut as it was one of the jobs my mom assigned us younger children during her pie assembly line. Now all I had to do was sit back and let the oven turn my doughy pie shapes into golden brown crust.

I was proud of my work with the realization of course that the lessons from my mom and the tips from Emily would certainly help with the final product. I must admit that while I was putting together this pie I was a bit shocked at the ingredients demanded for piecrust. I could not believe what goes into a piecrust. Every recipe for just one bottom and one top piecrust requires about three or four cups of flour and half a

pound of either lard or vegetable shortening. I always suspected that any pie is rich in calories.

After putting one together I wondered if it was wise to even be eating this stuff. Put it this way, if I had two pieces of this pie it would be like eating a quarter pound of fat or lard and if it were a berry pie it would include a huge serving of sugar. I am just talking about the crust here. Add to that a rich meat pie filling or a sweet fruit filling and you have a recipe for a heart attack.

That said, I was more than happy to sit down and serve up my first meat pie. The crust was not perfect but it was tasty enough. I sure didn't reach for a second piece with my new found knowledge of what all that fat and sugar was going to do to my body.

Now that I had a chance to think about this it occurred to me that most of the time people are not aware of what ingredients go into prepared food. My parents and others from their generation in Attawapiskat took for granted that the food they bought at the store was good for them. They and most people I know from up north simply trusted that anyone in the food business would provide products that would be safe to eat.

Surprise, surprise. Little did they know that eating canned foods, packaged meals and nutrient-depleted breads, sugars and flour was an unhealthy choice that would affect them later in life. Statistics in First Nation communities show a high rate of obesity, diabetes and cancers of the bowel and digestive systems. I am no scientist or medical expert but now I must admit I have a little bit of knowledge about pies. Pies are scary.

Actually, pies are not all that bad when compared to some of the fast food, frozen meals and processed products that contain lists of unidentifiable, unpronounceable and in some cases, dangerous ingredients. How many times have you looked at an ingredient list and you found that you were unable to recognize or pronounce many of the items listed on product packaging?

Now I am taking a closer look at the products I am buying and I have decided that when buying a food item, if I find more than three items that I don't recognize or that I can't pronounce, then back on the shelf it goes. I don't want to give up on my new found knowledge in making a pie. I'll just make small ones.



# EMPLOYMENT



Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James  
σ D d 7 a b 7 Δ r Δ · Δ Δ a Δ a a b r C b σ Δ  
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

## **Executive Director (Extension of competition until December 1, 2006)**

### **The Role**

Responsible, under the authority of the Board of Directors, for the administration and operations of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay; Ensures that the resolutions of the Board of Directors are carried out, and submits all necessary items to the Board of Directors for its approval; Ensures the planning, organization, coordination, implementation, evaluation and controls for the quality and accessibility of all the client-centered and community-based services and programs provided to the population, as well as the human resource development activities to support these goals; Ensures the effectiveness and efficiency of human, financial, material and information resources systems to support the goals of the organization

### **The Challenges**

Implementing the last two years of the 5 year Strategic Regional Plan (new services, programs, department and capital projects) and delivering the required services to the population at regional and local levels; Organizing and supporting the accountability process in the implementation of the Strategic Regional Plan both at the regional and local level; Integrating the Eeyou Nation Vision Statement on Health and Social Services into the intervention philosophy and objectives of the organization, and its services, administration and operations; Implementing an Eeyou Nation holistic approach to health and well-being according to Cree values and Traditional healing practices; Planning and managing the development of new services, programs, departments and capital projects, as well as the enhancement of present services; Developing and implementing a comprehensive Human Resources Development Plan as well as a Medical Manpower Plan and collaborating with the Cree School Board to ensure that management and professional services are provided by Eeyouch.

### **Profile**

A leadership style which encourages participation and commitment to organizational objectives, and the valuing of the contribution of the staff; An executive team leader with excellent communication and people skills; A strategic vision of organization, and sensitivity to changes in the needs of the Cree environment; A highly developed decision-making capacity and experience in change management; A management approach focused on effectiveness, and tangible results; A proven track record of exceptional organizational performance; Ability to maintain excellent relationships with partner organizations.

### **Requirements**

Masters Degree in Administration, or a Masters Degree in a health or social services discipline, or equivalent knowledge and experience to a Masters Degree in Administration, or five to seven years experience in Executive or Senior Management; Good knowledge of Quebec Health and Social Services Network; Excellent working knowledge of two languages: Cree, French or English; commitment to learn the third one is essential; Knowledge of First Nation health and social service issues, practices and trends, as well as postcolonial issues; Knowledge of the Cree Language, Cree Culture and Cree milieu are valuable assets.

### **Conditions**

Based in Chisasibi, the remuneration and social benefits are according to the policies applicable to (hors cadre) administrators in the MHSSQ network, and the CBHSSJB (class 26). In addition to the usual fringe benefits, the employer provides the housing, defrays the moving and storage costs for employees recruited further than 50 kilometers. There is a northern allowance of \$6,908 to \$11,051 and 3 or 4 sorties, depending on the incumbent's status (single or with dependants). The CBHSSJB ensures access to this post to anyone, without discrimination, wishing to apply. In case of equally qualified applicants, priority is given to senior administrators and officers in the health and social services.

Please forward a copy of degree(s), a brief statement of your philosophy of a First Nation Health and Social Services, a covering letter describing your interest and established qualifications for the position and a copy of your current resume by mail. Your application must be received by 5 pm December 1, 2006 at the following address:

**Mrs. Dianne Reid  
President of the Selection Committee for the Executive Director  
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay  
P.O. Box 250  
Chisasibi, Quebec  
J0M 1E0**

For confidentiality purposes, CVs sent by fax or email will not be accepted. Information about the position may be obtained by calling (819) 855-2844. We thank in advance all who apply.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## BIRTHS -100

I would like to welcome my God-child in to this world Cherish Nikita Gunner born on September 27 time:?? 7lbs 3oz may God watch over you, keep you safe and may his wonderful angels watch over you at all times luv-You lots -xox- From: your aunty (Godmother) Whitney in Waswanipi D

## BIRTHDAYS - 101

Birthday wish going to my nephew Uriah John Dixon on Nov 6/06 he must be in Waswanipi.sah you're growing so fast happy 11th b-dau mojo...lol.have fun take care I love you and I miss you see you soon.with love Rachel(Wask).

I would like to wish happy birthday to my friend Jessica who will be celebrating her b-day on

November 27, 2006. Wishing you the best and hope you'll enjoy your day because friends like you deserve it.And I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to my sis Melinda who celebrated her b-day on October 15, 2006. Wishing you many more birthdays to come & I love you so much. Once again to both of you "happy birthday & many more" Love always Pam

Happy 20th birthday on November 25 to our daughter/sister Laura-Lee Sam in North Bay, Ontario. We hope you have a wonderful birthday and many more to come. We miss you and Angus-Lee so much. Good luck on your exams. Love from Mom, Dad, and your two brothers

October 31, 2000 was the day that the creator decided to bring Chiiwaadin Billy Robbie, Gawatchoushid Bearskin into our lives. It was a great and wonderful day filled with tears of joy, happiness, and relief to know that you will be all right, and by our side, as you were welcomed with open arms into the Bearskin and Masty family, we just want to let you know that you are greatly loved by all that have been given that wonderful privilege to be part of your life. As you celebrate your 6th Birthday, we want to wish you the best of wishes..and may the wonderful Creator Bless your every footstep, every breath on the many wonderful days that he has blessed you with, and lots of love, happiness, and wonderful things that await you on this wonderful journey that you have embarked upon called "LIFE", LOTS OF LOVE, from Mom (Stella), Dad (Keith), Eliza-Faith & Nimistchou Bearskin, and dah beautiful Rose....always know that you are loved, and cared deeply.

10 yrs ago on October 15, 1996 was a wonderful day filled with a wonderful promise of happy beginnings on this Glorious Journey called "LIFE" for our handsome, and wonderful Son Nimistchou, Keith-Dakota, Daniel, Chadawaajigabou Bearskin. As we celebrate your 10th birthday with you, we want you to know that you are always loved, more than you will ever know, and that we are sending you many many birthday wishes on your day. As you celebrate many more fun filled days as the years to come, we ask that the wonderful creator bless your footsteps, and every breath you take while you embark upon this wonderful journey of life. We LOVE YOU, from Mom, Dad, Eliza-faith, & Chiiwaadin Bearskin, and dah beautiful Rose.

It has been 14 years since we met, and the big (one-o) 10th Anniversary is fast approaching. I just wanted to wish you a Happy Birthday, and a Happy 10th



Public Works and  
Government Services  
Canada

Travaux publics et  
Services gouvernementaux  
Canada

## Office of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME)

**Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC)** wishes to announce that the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME) has expanded to open six new regional offices across Canada. The OSME regional offices are being located in PWGSC regional headquarters in: Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton, and Vancouver.

The regional offices are part of the OSME's overall effort to make procurement more accountable and cost-effective by ensuring small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have access to compete for government opportunities. The OSME will ensure this access through collaboration with industry associations and individual businesses on procurement policy changes, and through the delivery of training, information, and support tools to SMEs.

For more information, please visit the following website: [www.pwgsc.gc.ca/sme](http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/sme), or e-mail: [osme@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:osme@pwgsc.gc.ca), or call: 1 800 811-1148.

## Bureau des petites et moyennes entreprises (BPME)

**Travaux publics et Services gouvernementaux Canada (TPSGC)** souhaite annoncer que le Bureau des petites et moyennes entreprises (BPME) prend de l'expansion et qu'il a ouvert six nouveaux bureaux régionaux au pays. Les bureaux régionaux du BPME sont situés dans les bureaux régionaux de TPSGC à Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton et Vancouver.

Les bureaux régionaux participent à l'effort global du BPME visant à rendre le processus d'approvisionnement plus rentable et efficace en veillant à ce que les petites et moyennes entreprises (PME) aient la possibilité de participer aux occasions de marchés publics. À cette fin, le BPME consultera les associations sectorielles et les entreprises sur les modifications des politiques sur les achats et il offrira du perfectionnement, de l'information et des outils pour appuyer les PME.

Pour plus de renseignements, consultez le site Web [www.tpsgc.gc.ca/pme](http://www.tpsgc.gc.ca/pme), ou communiquez avec le BPME par courriel, à l'adresse [bpme@tpsgc.gc.ca](mailto:bpme@tpsgc.gc.ca), ou par téléphone, au numéro 1 800 811-1148.

Canada



# CLASSIFIEDS

Anniversary on November 5th, 2006. Here is a poem that I send to you; "GOD did not promise days without pain, Laughter without sorrow, or sun without the rain. But GOD did promise strength for the day, Comfort for the tears, and light for the way. And for all who believe in his kingdom above, He answers their Faith with everlasting Love."

Our 10th Anniversary has be truly Blessed by the creator, we made it this far, now all we have to worry about is the next 50 years Love Always Your Wife of 10 yrs, Stella M. Bearskin, and soul mate for 14 years...who knows maybe for another 50 yrs...xxoxx

Carand enjoy your day, relaxe don't think you d watching you as I send this to you, appy Birthday and many many more to come.

Wishing a Happy 4th Birthday to my cousin Sylvester Moar on November 27th and more birthdays to come From Denzel

Our son Denzel Bert William Berryman will be celebrating his 4th Birthday on November 20th we want to wish you a Happy 4th Birthday and we will always be there for you son. With lots of love from Mommy & Daddy

Happy Birthday goin out to some "Juicy Stuff"...Mr. Lee-Roy Blacksmith....Happy ?? Birthday. I still don't believe you! haha juss kidding! Well I hope that on November 30th you'll be reminded you of how much a funny. sweet and good friend you are to many. Oh! I'd come to party with you...but I've got bathroom buisness to attend too :P...juss kidding! Be there if I could be man! Have a good one Take Care...from: Your Sweetie haha!

We would like to wish a very special birthday to our baby girl.Lekasha Elexis Nyrie will be celebrating her 1st Birthday on November 12 2006.We love you very much! With lots of love,mommy and daddy xoxo(Wask)

A belated birthday wish goes out to one special funny kind of a guy, Christian Paul John Saganash turned 14 yrs old on November 10th...Anjabweh saah!!! You've come a long ways son and we're so proud of you. Loving you always and 4-ever...from all of us at 14 Jackpine.

We Levi Summer and Byron-Randy would like to wish a Happy Birthday to a very specail person, our grandma and her name is Kitty Mianscum.She will be celebrating her birthday on November 17. Gookum I'm sorry for always giving you and mom a hard time FROM BYRON.....Happy Birthday Gookum we love you.Thank you for everything.Love boodoo and semaguts

Happy 16th Birthday to Melissa Gilpin on November 25th. All the best! Love you so much. From your family in Waskaganish.

I want to wish my sister, Shannon Grace (Melissa) Gilpin, a Happy 16th Birthday. Love, Mikayla Meredith Angel

I would like to send birthday greetings to my grandchildren Justin Morrison (October), Melissa Gilpin (November), Starlene and Melanie Morrison (December). Love and Kisses, Grandma oxoxo

Hello, I'm Meeaubin from Ouje and I wanted to say happy birthday to my friends and cousins..hehe, so I'll say it now. Happy birthday to my BEST FRIEND from Val-D'or whos turning 14 Miranda Shecapio-Blacksmith on November 20, and happy birthday to my brother on the 22nd who is turning 15 Patrick Capassissit-Lacroix and my cousin Isaiah Bosum on the 24th and Shorona Happyjack who is going to 13th on the 24th and happy belated birthday to Victoria Shecapio(13) Blacksmith and my other cousin also Dylan Capassisit who had just turned 13.. Vitoria and Dylan were born on the same dat on the 13th of November - woo I am so proud of u mofos now stay in school and be cool..(besides u Dylan u already dropped out...lol Jk..) Meeaubin

We would like to wish a Happy 11th Birthday to our beautiful girl/sister - Merissa Voyageur on December 8, 2006. We love you so much. From your Mom, Dad, Bedabin, Reilly, Semera, Britney and Rocky Coon.

Wishing our friend Miranda Grace Shecapio-Blacksmith a happy birthday on Nov. 20/06. She will be celebrating her 14 years old... Hope you'll have fun. We miss you too, hope you doin' fine in Val-d'Or as we are here in Ouje. Come back soon and visit us again. Our

night outs are boring b-cause your not here anymore..lol Once again happy birthday from your friends in Ouje Love Ya

## CONGRATULATIONS - 104

Congratulations to Emma And Randy Otthereyes who got married on October 20th.2006 In Chisasibi..It was a beautiful wedding...I was so happy to be there at your wedding day..I thought I'mnNot gonna make it..But I did..Hooorrray!!Congrats to you both may happiest day Of your life take care now also your handsome boys..and you Randy take care of her! With Love Your Friend!! InWaswanipi

Vicky & her Amoo (Mitch Wawawa-somthing)"oops!" :S Congratulations on the birth of your baby boy! We are looking foward to meeting the lil'dude! We ask for blessings of happiness, strenght, love, and guidance from the Man above to you both as you journey together as "Mom & Dad"! Congratulations, God Bless you guys & Take Care of each other! From: all of us in North Bay!

To the Ouje Bougoumou Thunder Wolves (not Chib. Thunder Wolves). Was a tough game in the tournament. Congratulations, you did great as usual on the ice and you didn't let your fans down. You are our very own team because you come from Ouje. Keep playing together someday you will reach your goal. But I would also like to say congrats to the Chibougamau Hackers for their success. In Every storm , thunder still strikes and stands tall. Fr. A community member.

Congratulations to Lorraine Diamond on your completion of your Bachelors of Education. your hard work has finally paid off and

we were very honored and delighted to be able to share your special day with you.today and for the rest of your life may your dreams come true! Kevin and Emma Gunner

## PERSONAL - 300

To The People of Ouje-Bougoumou! Wahchiyyehk! HI! :) umm....my mum, Lisa St-Pierre....lied to some of you...ehhh juss kidding! No, once again...we mis-communicated! I luv u mum! told ya!;P I was planning on going to University this fall(sept.2006) but decided to go for one more year in College. I thought I told her, but I didn't...(or so she says!) haha juss kidding mum! So, yeah my fault and so I'm not in University, I am still in College BUT will be applying to University for Fall 2007! So wish me luck! Just thought I'd make this note because apparently she told quite a few people....jabweah...but I will do it mum...you just wait and see and I'll make myself so proud! oh yeah...and you & dad too! Anyways....Take Care OJ peeps! miss you guys! from brenda bones!

## Public Service

### Announcements - 400

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal now has a 1-800 number. You can now reach us toll-free at: 1-866-403-4688. Please check out the new website at: [www.nwsm.info](http://www.nwsm.info) and feel free to give us any feedback.

Do you need help? Someone to talk to? Call the Kid's Help Phone's toll-free number, at: 1-800-668-6868 or check out their website at: [www.kidshelp.sympati.co.ca](http://www.kidshelp.sympati.co.ca).

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of John Ottereyes of Chisasibi, James Bay region, Quebec, please contact S. Pyett collect at : 613-747-7800 x 3477.



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# Ville de Val-d'Or



*Wachiya!*  
*Welcome!*  
*Bienvenue!*

**CREE NATION TOURNAMENT**  
**14<sup>th</sup> of December till the 17<sup>th</sup> 2006**

**TOURNOI DE LA NATION CRIE**  
**14 au 17 décembre 2006**

As mayor of Val-d'Or and on behalf of all citizens, I wish to congratulate all athletes and say a special thanks to family members who are attending the Cree nation tournament in our city from the 14<sup>th</sup> of December till the 17<sup>th</sup>.

I believe that such an event contributes in both the sharing and exchanging of our cultural, social and business relationships.

We are happy to welcome you once again for this special sporting event. Your community will always be welcomed in Val-d'Or.

Fernand Trahan  
Mayor of Val-d'Or

Au nom de tous les citoyens de Val-d'Or, je tiens à féliciter tous les athlètes et transmettre un merci très spécial aux membres des familles qui viennent participer au Tournoi de la Nation crie, qui se déroule à Val-d'Or du 14 au 17 décembre.

Je crois qu'un tel événement contribue au développement et au maintien de liens tant culturels que sociaux et économiques.

Nous sommes fiers et heureux de vous accueillir de nouveau à Val-d'Or pour cet événement spécial. Sachez que vous serez toujours les bienvenus chez nous.

Fernand Trahan  
Maire de Val-d'Or





  
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## *The Nation*

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## **The Nation celebrates lucky 13! A big thank you goes out to our readers!**

It started out with a small group of dedicated individuals, Cree and non-Cree alike and now here we are. It has been 13 years and we're still going strong.

Throughout the years the Nation has witnessed and reported on many positive changes in Eeyou Istchee. We were there for the birth of current leader Mathew Mukash, for example....Oh, wait a minute we weren't around for that.

Well we were around for the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and...Ooops we mean the Paix des Braves. That was a lot of fun, wasn't it?

The birth of the Cree School Board! Now that was a momentous occasion! Finally Crees were taking the educational reins and leading the people into a bold new direction. And we were there! Okay we were still a few years off, but we were there in spirit!

The point of the matter is we are now entering our teen years and despite missing a few things before we were born, the stories we cover these days more than make up for it.

In an informal poll conducted around Eeyou Istchee by various Nationites, we found out that people read the Nation for many things, the most popular being the classifieds. Who's seeing who and who is in love with what is always a fun read.

We receive many letters here from people who are happy, upset, angry and envious of us. And those are just from the politicians!

A community newspaper, especially one in a territory as vast as Eeyou Istchee, is meant to bring the people together through shared stories of happiness, heartbreak and human emotion.

We do that. At least we try to. And for that, we thank the people who make our jobs so enjoyable, the Cree people!

Meegwetch, Nia:wen'kowa and thank you for your support!





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# Congratulations

*to the entire team that  
makes The Nation Magazine strive!*

*Niskamoon Corporation* would like to congratulate  
*The Nation* for 13 years of service to the Cree Nation!  
Through the hard work and dedication shown, many more  
years of successful publishing are sure to come!

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## FIRST NATIONS PAVILION

# The First Nations Pavilion comes through!

With the commitment of the governments of Canada and Québec, the financing of the project is now completed. The construction should begin by spring 2007.

UQAT wants to thank all those who made it possible. Special thanks go to the volunteers of the financial campaign and the co-presidents Ted Moses and Fernand Trahan.



Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, Mr. Pierre Corbeil, has announced Quebec's contribution in a ceremony held in Val-d'Or last October.



Université du Québec  
en Abitibi-Témiscamingue



[www.uqat.ca](http://www.uqat.ca)

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